

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 14, 2006. Claims 1-36 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 are in independent form. Claims 37-39 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 17, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claim 18 has been amended as to matters of form; no change in scope is intended or believed effected by this change. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-36 were rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action states that the “specification does not show support for a determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means.” Applicant has carefully reviewed and amended the claims to ensure that they fully comply with the requirements of the Section 112, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully submits that the determining means (or step) is supported in the specification by at least Figure 13, steps S351 and S352, and the corresponding description on page 36, line 21 through page 37, line 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection under Section 112.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,154,787 (Urevig) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,973 (Jaffe).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27, 29,

31, 33 and 35 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device. The information processing apparatus includes: (1) selection means for selecting symbols of the first shared device and the second shared device using a graphical user interface; (2) determination means for determining the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second shared device selected by the selection means; (3) reception means for receiving information of the second shared device selected by the selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by the determination means, the received information including information of the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition; (4) recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means; (5) renewal means for updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means; and (6) display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by the renewal means and information of the third shared device on a same screen of the display means. The displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on the third shared device, which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected by the selection means, is not updated.

Urevig relates to a method and apparatus for allocating peripheral devices between autonomous computer systems. The apparatus includes a cross system automation component including the Single Point Autoaction Message System (SP-AMS), which allows batch or demand runs on the host computer system to send messages to a Single Point Operations (SPO) Console, which monitors and controls multiple computer systems from a graphical display. Incoming resource requests sent to the SPO Console through the SP-AMS are recognized by the message automation facility, and a Shared Tape Drive Manager (STDM) is notified of the request for additional resource. The STDM then identifies available tape drives, and sends a message to the source computer system to re-assign the tape drive and, after the tape drive is unassigned by the source computer system, the STDM instructs the requesting host computer system to take assignment of the tape drive.

Urevig discusses grouping devices in accordance with their attributes (see Column 6, lines 26-44). However, Applicant has found nothing in Urevig that would teach or suggest at least “selection means for selecting symbols of the first shared device and the second shared device using a graphical user interface” or “display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by said renewal means and information of the third shared device on a same screen of said display means, wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on the third shared device, which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means, is not updated,” as recited in Claim 1 (emphasis added).

Jaffe does not remedy the deficiencies of Urevig. Jaffe relates to a method and

system for interfacing management user interfaces with networked computer and computer peripheral storage product lines. Jaffe discusses managed objects having multiple facets for linking with particular views of a graphical user interface. Jaffe further discusses that each facet is configured to access attributes, relationships and methods for a particular view of the managed objection. However, Applicant has found nothing in Jaffe that would teach or suggest at least “selection means for selecting symbols of the first shared device and the second shared device using a graphical user interface” or “display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by said renewal means and information of the third shared device on a same screen of said display means, wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on the third shared device, which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means, is not updated,” as recited in Claim 1 (emphasis added).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Urevig and Jaffe, whether considered separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 1.

Independent Claims 9 and 17 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over Urevig and Jaffe for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Claim 25 is directed to an information processing apparatus which manages a

first shared device and a third shared device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus which manages a second shared device. The information processing apparatus includes: (1) selection means for selecting symbols of the first shared device and the second shared device using a graphical user interface; (2) determination means for determining the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second shared device selected by the selection means; (3) obtaining means for obtaining information on a status or a connected condition of the second shared device selected by the selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by the determination means; (4) recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by the obtaining means; and (5) display means for displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and information on a status or a connected condition of the first shared device, and information of the third shared device. The displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on the third shared device, which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected by the selection means, is not updated.

For substantially the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant has found nothing in Urevig or Jaffe that would teach or suggest at least “selection means for selecting symbols of the first shared device and the second shared device using a graphical user interface” or “display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the second

shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, and information on a status or a connected condition of the first shared device, and information of the third shared device, wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on the third shared device, which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means, is not updated,” as recited in Claim 25 (emphasis added).

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 25.

Independent Claims 27 and 29 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 25, and are believed to be patentable over Urevig and Jaffe for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 25.

Claim 31 is directed to an information processing apparatus that manages a first device and a third device, and communicates with another information processing apparatus that manages a second device. The information processing apparatus includes: (1) designation means for designating the first device and the second device using a graphical user interface; (2) determination means for determining the other information processing apparatus, which manages the second device designated by the designation means; (3) obtaining means for obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device designated by the designation means from the other information processing apparatus determined by the determination means; and (4) display means for displaying a status or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and

the second device information obtained by the obtaining means, and information of the third device. The displayed information on the first device is updated and the information on the third device, which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not designated by the designation means, is not updated.

For substantially the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant has found nothing in Urevig or Jaffe that would teach or suggest at least “designation means for designating the first device and the second device using a graphical user interface” or “display means for displaying a status or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained by said obtaining means, and information of the third device, wherein the displayed information on the first device is updated and the information on the third device, which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not designated by said designation means, is not updated,” as recited in Claim 31 (emphasis added).

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 31.

Independent Claims 33 and 35 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 31, and are believed to be patentable over Urevig and Jaffe for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 31.

Early and favorable continued examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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